



Modified PTO/SB/33 (10-05)

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number

Q77315

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number

10/654,888

Filed

September 5, 2003

First Named Inventor

Takayuki ARAKI

Art Unit

1713

Examiner

Henry S. Hu

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal

The review is requested for the reasons(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

☒ I am an attorney or agent of record.

Registration number 33,276

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October 24, 2006

Date



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77315

Takayuki ARAKI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/654,888

Group Art Unit: 1713

Confirmation No.: 6640

Examiner: Henry S. Hu

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: OPTICAL MATERIAL CONTAINING FLUORINE-CONTAINING POLYMER
HAVING FUNCTIONAL GROUP

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

MAIL STOP AF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the new Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Pilot Program, and further to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated May 24, 2006, Appellants file this Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review. This Request is also accompanied by the filing of a Notice of Appeal, and a Petition and payment for an Extension of Time.

Appellants turn now to the rejection at issue:

Claims 45-47 and 49-55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,869,693 to Fryd et al. in view of EP 1 072 905 A1 to Koike et al. for reasons of record. Claims 29-44 and 48 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Fryd et al. was cited as teaching an enolate or beta-dicarbonyl ligand so as to complex metal ions (i.e., the group Rf having 1 to 5 >C=O units), and was further cited as teaching that other types of polymers or copolymers including polyvinyl ethers or polyacrylates have been shown by Fryd et al. to be useful in carrying such functional groups. Koike et al. was cited as employing a fluoropolymer having an ether type structure described in formulae (1) to (3) at

page 3, the Examiner thereby reasoning that Koike et al. teaches the advantages of the use of an ether structure and a fluoropolymer whenever a keto-type chelate is mixed. The reason for rejection was that it would have been obvious to modify Fryd et al.'s polymeric composition by using an ether-type perfluoropolymer carrying a fluorinated metal chelate as a moiety inside of the polymer's pendant group as said to be taught by Koike et al.

Claim 45 is directed to a fluorine-containing polymer (I) having a functional group represented by formula (1) in which the structural unit M is a structural unit derived from a fluorine-containing ethylenic monomer represented by formula (2). In formula (2), R_f is a fluorine-containing alkylene group having 1 to 5 >C=O (carbonyl) units or a fluorine-containing alkylene group having ether bond which has 1 to 5 >C=O units. The elected polymer includes the structural unit M represented by formula (2) where a=1-3; b=0 and c=1. Thus, unit M has a side chain including an ether bond and a terminal group represented by R_f which is a fluorine-containing alkylene group having 1 to 5 >C=O units. As discussed at page 12, lines 6-14 of the specification, the >C=O unit in R_f has the ability of forming a stable complex or salt with a rare earth metal ion by an ion exchange reaction. Examples of R_f are given at page 12 *et seq.*

Turning to the cited prior art, Koike et al. in paragraph [0027]-[0028] and in Tables 1 and 2 describes that:

[0027] When the above-mentioned fluorine-containing polymer is used as the non-crystalline polymer (a), it is preferred to use as the metal chelate compound (b) a metal chelate compound having a fluorine-containing compound as a ligand. Specifically, metal chelate compounds having fluorine-containing compound Nos. 9 to 37 as indicated in the following Tables 1 and 2 as ligands, are preferred from the viewpoint of the stability in the fluorine-containing polymers or in the fluorine-containing monomers capable of forming such fluorine containing polymers. ...

[0028] ...Further, one having fluorine atoms has an improved solubility when the matrix non-crystalline polymer (a) is a fluorine-containing polymer, whereby dispersion of the metal chelate compound (b) in the non-crystalline polymer (a) will be more uniform, thus providing an effect to suppress the increase of light scattering, although the refractive index may decrease. ...

As is clear from the above description, all of the ligands forming the metal chelates shown in Tables 1 and 2 are not polymers, but rather low molecular weight compounds. Further, the problem to be solved in Koike et al. is to disperse the metal chelate compound (b) more uniformly in the non-crystalline polymer (a). Namely, according to Koike et al., in order to improve dispersibility of the metal chelate compound in the subject non-crystalline fluorine-containing polymer, suitable selection of a ligand for the metal chelate compound is disclosed. There is, however, no teaching to modify the non-crystalline fluorine-containing polymer side chain.

From another aspect, selection of metal chelate compound is discussed to a limited extent in paragraph [0027] "When the above-mentioned fluorine-containing polymer is used as the non-crystalline polymer (a)". The above-mentioned fluorine-containing polymers used as the non-crystalline polymer (a) having ether structures are polymers having the specific cyclic ether structures represented by the formulae (1) to (3).

The Examiner considered that it would have been obvious to modify Fryd's polymeric composition by using "an ether-type perfluoropolymer carrying a fluorinated metal chelate as a moiety inside the polymer's pendant group as taught by Koike of an ether-type perfluoropolymer carrying a fluorinated metal chelate as a moiety inside the polymer's pendant group". In Koike, as explicitly described, "**dispersion** of the metal chelate compound (b) in the non-crystalline polymer (a) will be more uniform", but the fluorinated metal chelate is not "a moiety inside the polymer's pendant group" of the ether-type perfluoropolymer.

Considering the problem to be solved (improved dispersibility) and associated description of the metal chelate compound (b) and the polymer (a), Koike et al. teaches nothing more than the combination of the metal chelate compound having a specific ligand and a specific non-crystalline fluorine-containing polymer having a specific cyclic ether structure. There is nothing in Koike et al. which would lead one of ordinary skill to extend the disclosure of Koike et al. towards modifying the specific non-crystalline fluorine-containing polymer having the specific cyclic ether structure to provide a ligand with the polymer.

Fryd et al. relates to a metal complex polymer which corresponds to the metal chelate compound (b) of Koike et al. However, there is no concrete disclosure of a fluorine-containing polymer. The Appellants could not find any teaching in Fryd et al. which would suggest modifying along the lines of Koike et al., because Koike et al. does not teach or suggest any modification of the non-crystalline fluorine-containing polymer.

Even if one skilled in the art were to combine Koike et al. with Fryd et al., at most this would involve replacing the metal chelate compound (b) of Koike et al. with the metal complex polymer of Fryd et al. However, such combination also would not reach the Appellants' invention.

From yet a different perspective, Koike et al. concerns a refractive index distribution type light transmitting device comprising a non-crystalline polymer (a) and a metal chelate compound (b), where (b) is distributed in the non-crystalline polymer (a) with a concentration gradient in a specific direction (Abstract). That is, in Koike et al., the fluorine-containing polymer having the side chains including an ether bond as shown in formulas (1) to (3) at page 3 constitutes the non-crystalline polymer (a) and has nothing to do with the metal chelate compound (b). Because the ether linkage in Koike et al.'s compound has nothing to do with forming a complex with the rare earth metal ion, the Examiner has not explained why such teaching would suggest structure modification including an ether bond in the side chain of the compound of Fryd et al. which forms a complex with a rare earth metal ion by virtue of the $>C=O$ units.

The present invention relates to a novel polymer, and has been completed by finding that the novel polymer is useful as an optical material. Namely, in both Fryd et al and Koike et al, there is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure as to the claimed novel polymer having, at its side chain, a fluorine-containing alkylene group having 1 to 5 carbonyl units, namely, the novel polymer of formula (1) having the fluorine-containing ethylenic structural unit M represented by formula (2).

The Examiner's approach with respect to the combination of Fryd et al. and Koike et al. is hindsight reconstruction of Appellants' invention. One of ordinary skill could never arrive at the

present invention, without first seeing the present novel polymer and without first reading the instant specification.

Withdrawn claims 29-44 directed to a fluorine-containing resin composition also require the fluorine-containing polymer (1) of claim 45 where Rf is a fluorine-containing alkylene group or fluorine-containing alkylene group including ether bond having 1 to 5 $>C=O$ units. Claims 29-44 are therefore patentable for the same reasons that claim 45 is patentable over the prior art. The same holds true for withdrawn claim 48. Therefore, if claim 45 is found to be allowable, Appellants respectfully request withdrawal of the restriction/election of species requirement and to also allow claims 29-44 and 48 containing the same patentable features as claim 45.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims on appeal are patentable over Fryd et al. in view of Koike et al., and Appellants respectfully request withdrawal of the foregoing rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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